

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are all the claims currently pending in the present Application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 12, 17, and 24 stand objected to.

Regarding claims 1 and 17, the Examiner asserts that the claim recites “a first ink set or a second ink set” and also recites that the first bi-directional print mode uses inks included in the first ink set and the second bidirectional print mode uses inks included in the second ink set. The Examiner asserts that “this is unclear since both ink sets are being used while only one of the two ink sets are mounted.” Applicants submit that it is clear from claims 1 and 17, as amended for purposes of clarity, and from the specification of the present invention that either the first ink set or the second ink set is mounted on the printing apparatus, and that when the first bi-directional print mode is selected, inks from the first ink set are used and when the second bi-directional print mode is selected, inks from the second ink set are used. Therefore, because the apparatus enables the first ink set and the second ink set to be mounted selectably, when the first bi-directional print mode is in use, the first ink set is mounted and when the second bi-directional print mode is in use, the second ink set is mounted.

Regarding claims 12 and 24, Applicants amend these claims for purposes of clarity and to explicitly recite within the claims what was believed to have already been implicitly defined therein.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 1, 12, 17, and 24 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-22, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi (U.S. Patent 6,532,026) in view of Ohtsuka (U.S. Patent 6,145,950). Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Ohtsuka and Fuse (U.S. Patent 5,539,434).

Regarding claim 1, Applicants submit that none of the cited references teaches or suggests a non-exchangeable print head including a plurality of nozzles on which a first ink set or a second ink set, are mounted, where the first ink set and the second ink set have “mutually different combinations of ink, wherein the first ink set and the second ink set are associated with a first bi-directional print mode and a second bi-directional print mode, respectively,” as recited. Applicants note that Takahashi specifically teaches an exchangeable print head (see Figures 5, 6A, and 6B and descriptions thereof).

Applicants submit that claims 9, 17, and 18 are patentable for reasons that are similar to those discussed with respect to claim 1.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 1-25 are patentable over the cited combinations of references and respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/674,808

Q77778

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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